

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 17, 1896, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D.C. November 17,(1896.) My dear Alec:

No letter from you, but a long one from Mr. Kennan. I hope you and he won't think me very obstinate and pig-headed for not being convinced by his arguments of the certain failure of my library scheme. There is only one statement that has touched me in the least, and that is that Miss McCurdy is convinced of the impossibility of opening the reading-room on \$50.00. I understood from her that she believed that it could be done or I might have increased my offer. I want to hear from her herself on the subject, until I do I shall doubt the correctness of Mr. Kennan's information.

The library may have been started several years ago, but I do not think it can properly be said to have been open to the public all that time when it's use has been hedged about with so many inconveniences. As for the lack of interest shown by committee men, of course it is very wrong and stupid of them not to attend the meetings, but can we be sure that it is altogether their fault. Perhaps they have their own private reasons for disliking to attend. For the rest I think the library would have much more chance of success if it were in the ladies hands instead those of the gentlemen. Anyway I am not satisfied that the people of Baddeck are so incorrigible as he thinks. If they were only approached in the right way I am sure they would show more signs of appreciation. Human nature is about the 2 same the world over, and I don't see any reason to suppose the Baddeckers much worse than that of other places.

I am troubled by what you tell me of Mr. McInnis. He is a very valuable servant as well as a very true and honest man and we can not spare him. Do not hesitate to help him to go to Halifax or better still to Boston if Dr. McKeen thinks that will do him any good. I like Mr.

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McInnis very much and have a great deal of confidence in him. Do all you can for him. Elsie and I spent this morning with your Father and Mother. We have been out several times every week and I think they begin to count upon our coming and to feel badly if we don't. Your mother is better, your father well.

Lina upset me once at the bicycle rink this morning and I banged into the wall once nearly putting my knee out, but I think I am getting on. It is to be hoped I will learn to ride before I have smashed myself up entirely, if only for Elsie's sake.

Ever your own, Mabel.